



Newsletter 03. Number 1

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Secretary's word

The Society continues to develop apace. In previous issues of this newsletter, I've identified a number of signs of the healthy academic state of the Society; the vibrancy of the last meeting in Edinburgh, the new research networks initiatives, and the general levels of interest in the society and its activities including the Journal (which, as you will read later on, is growing to the point where it may be prudent to increase the frequency with which it is published). There's every indication, at the time I write this, that the Granada meeting is going to be a spectacular success and is going to turn out to be a large and extremely dynamic meeting. The President reports that plans are underway to put together more Summer school-type programmes. And the membership is rising, in terms of number and diversity of research that is represented under the Society umbrella.

I hope it is reassuring that alongside all this, the Society continues to ensure that it has good foundations from which to sustain this development. The Society has begun to appoint a series of local officers to keep channels of communication open and ensure that the Society continues to reflect the interests of the membership, as well as take advantage of opportunities to increase membership. The committee of the Society has backed a plan from the Treasurer to create a two-year reserve of funds, while also increasing the availability of money for workshops, summer schools, and related activities. The Treasurer is also developing a scheme to allow payment of subscriptions electronically.

Furthermore, a new Society website is under development. It has been noted in previous newsletters that the material requires updating, and this has now begun to happen. I hope to be able to announce, via the Society email list, more details of these developments before long. On which point, I appeal again to anyone who receives this newsletter but does not receive email letters, to contact me to check we have correct addresses. Put simply, every time an email message is sent out by the Society, we have a considerable number of returned, undeliverable, messages. I've made several efforts to identify correct addresses but this is not always successful. It would be very helpful for members to ensure that Society addresses are correct.

Although it seems some way away, I would like to begin the call for nominations for the next Bertelson award. Those involved in the award, which is for recognition of outstanding research by a relatively new researcher, will know that the standard of nominations in previous rounds has been astonishingly high. I am sure that this will continue, and that the Society will find a fitting recipient of the award to follow on from Dr Charles Spence, who will be presenting some of his work and receiving the award in Granada. So it is time to put your thinking caps on, and to begin to identify individuals who might be suitable. The rubric of the award was given in a newsletter from a couple of years ago, and is reproduced here:

The Paul Bertelson award is designed to honour scientists at a relatively early stage of their scientific career, who have made an outstanding contribution to European Cognitive Psychology. Candidates should normally have completed their doctoral thesis no more than 8 years before nomination, and be under 35 years of age. However, the committee do not wish to discriminate against researchers who have, for example, taken maternity leave or made career switches. The committee also recognises that differences exist across Europe in research training procedures. Therefore, a case may be made to the jury if there are reasons why the criteria should be interpreted flexibly.

You are invited to nominate persons for the Bertelson award, to be presented at the XIVth Conference in Leiden, 2005. Please send your proposal together with a copy of the nominee's curriculum vitae to Dr John Towse (as Society Secretary), **to arrive no later than October 31st, 2003**. Your letter of nomination should cover several issues concerning the nominee, including:

- A supporting statement of no more than 100 words indicating why you think they should receive the award
- The general themes of their research.
- Their most significant research findings, and most important theoretical contributions. Please identify 3 representative publications.
- The degree to which the nominee's work has stimulated research among others.
- A comparison of the nominee with others in their field(s).

The committee assessing the nominations will consider the general scientific qualifications (e.g. the productivity and the quality of research of the candidate and the degree to which they have been responsible for work in multi-authored papers) the range or breadth of scientific contributions, and the international nature of their work (have they worked with and do they collaborate with international researchers, and shown evidence of influence and work beyond national boundaries?).

Finally, I've not included an article in this newsletter on the subject of trans-national funding opportunities for research. I hope to do so in the next newsletter. I would welcome contact with any members who are engaged in working towards Framework Six funding at present, with experiences to share, or with anyone involved in applying for, or working on, Marie Curie Research fellowships. I'm sure this type of information would be valuable to a wide constituency within ESCoP.

John Towse, March, 2003

New Society Members. There has been a surge in new members since the last newsletter! This is surely good news for the Society. A warm welcome is extended to the following:

Prof. Veronika Coltheart (Macquarie University, Australia)
Ann Depoorter (Ghent University, Belgium)
Kevin Diependaele (University of Antwerp, Belgium)
Maud Deschuyteneer (Ghent University, Belgium)
Denis Drieghe (Ghent University, Belgium)
Jan Lammertyn (Ghent University, Belgium)
Hannelore Van Der Beken (Ghent University, Belgium)
Frederick Verbruggen (Ghent University, Belgium)
Dr. Ken McRae (University of Western Ontario, Canada)
Thomas Habekost (University of Copenhagen, Denmark)
Dr. Jean-Yves Baudouin (Université de Bourgogne, France))
Raphaelle Lepine (Université de Bourgogne, France)
Dr. Johannes Ziegler (Université de Provence, France)
Prof. Karl Klauer (Universität Bonn, Germany)
Dr. Thorsten Meiser (Jena University, Germany)
Andrea Philipp (Max-Planck-Institute for Psychological Research, Germany)
Natalie Sebanz (Max-Planck-Institute for Psychological Research, Germany)
Dorit Wenke (Humboldt University at Berlin, Germany)
Dr. Andrea Berger (Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Israel)
Dr. Ainat Pansky (University of Haifa, Israel)
Barbara Carretti (Università di Padova, Italy)
Dr. Nicola Mammarella (Università di Padova, Italy)
Dr. Franca Stablum (Università di Padova, Italy)
Prof. Maria Rosa Baroni (Università di Padova, Italy)
Dr. Guido Band (University of Leiden. The Netherlands)
Mariette Huizinga (University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands)
Andrea Cheshire (Lancaster University, UK)
Prof. Andrew Ellis (University of York, UK)
Martina Johnson (Southampton University, UK)
Dr. David Pearson (University of Aberdeen, UK)
Dr. Louise Phillips (University of Aberdeen, UK)
Gertrude Rapinett (University of Sussex, UK)
Dr. Darren Walker (UWIC, UK)
Dr. Linda Wheeldon (University of Birmingham, UK)

From the President

Dear ESCOP members,

André Vandierendonck completed his term as a President at the end of 2002 and I succeeded him, finding our Society in very good health. In particular, we can point to a series of important projects and to considerable effort towards strengthening the organization. André will still give his precious contribution, for a further two years, as a member of the governing Committee. Unfortunately the Committee has had to say goodbye to Joachim Hoffman, who for many years was the Treasurer of the Society and was able to steer the Society to an excellent and robust financial situation. To both of them I express, on behalf of all the members of the Society, our deep gratitude. I also thank Bernhard Hommel for having agreed to take over the role of Treasurer for the Society: He will have the embarrassing task of annually reminding you to pay the Society dues. Please help him.

2003 is the year of the Society Conference, which will be held in Granada this September. Our Committee met in Granada at the beginning of February, having the opportunity to admire the beauty of the town. The astonishing Alhambra, the warm and mysterious atmosphere of the old town, the views of the Palace, the hills, the white Sierra, all fascinated us. Also the Conference program looks very attractive, with the main talks given by leading scientists, a series of important Symposia, many individual papers, and poster sessions which are approaching the level of the mythical poster sessions of the Psychonomic Society meetings. Teresa Bajo and her collaborators are doing a great effort putting together the best scientific and non-scientific program. We will probably have an excursion to the Alhambra one evening (one of the most visited monuments in the world) exclusively booked for conference delegates. I cannot imagine how an ESCoP member could decide to miss out on the event.

The last meeting of the Committee also took forward the process of establishing local officers for the different European countries. In another section of the Newsletter you will find the list of the local officers, including – I hope (a few countries are still missing) – the officer of your Country. I consider the initiative very important, especially if the creation of the local officers starts a process of establishing local networks within the Society. I recommend that you contact the officer of your country and communicate your ideas and eventual willingness to collaborate. Local officers will represent our Society in their country and bring its voice to the international audience. Some countries have reported that they intend to organise, or are already organising, local meetings with the Society members (and sympathisers) of their -and maybe of neighbouring- countries. I think this could be useful especially for scientists in countries that have fewer opportunities for international contacts. For example, some countries of Eastern Europe could take advantage of this to improve their connections. I recommend that the local officers contact me and the other members of the Committee for any need or requests that

emerge. I hope to see as many local officers as possible at Granada Conference to discuss these points and improve our collaboration.

Another main goal of the Society concerns establishing specific scientific organizations and events. André Vandierendonck argued strongly that we should extend the idea of specific interest groups and meetings. Using his words 'organisers of such meetings (i.e. not established Conferences or symposia organised by existing societies) should constitute a team of people who commit themselves to organise such meetings on a regular basis'. We already had in Europe some networks, focused on scientific areas, who were showing an enduring vitality. The 'Imagery and Cognition' network is still very active, after about 20 years of existence, and will have its next meeting at the end of April in Pavia, with a program of approximately 80 papers and posters. Also the 'Working memory' network has successfully started its life with a stimulating meeting in Ghent. We expect that other groups will take advantage from the liaison with the Society and improve their cohesion.

Personally I am now involved in increasing the provision of international advanced (Summer) schools within the Society. I think they can give to young scientists a unique opportunity for improving knowledge and expertise, as well as learning to communicate and collaborate with the other people, who represent (or will represent) the future research field in Europe. I am also aware that having only one School every other year (which is our typical frequency) has the implication that a specific area will be covered only infrequently and many young people will never have the opportunity for attending a School in their area. For this reason I strongly encourage our members to consider the importance of taking on the responsibility of organizing an Advanced School (not necessarily in Summer) and I am grateful to colleagues who have agreed to this already, i.e. Lars Goran-Nilsson (Cognitive Aging, Stockholm, Summer 2004) and Carlo Umilta (Cognitive Neuropsychology, Padova, time to be still defined). Other proposals would be welcome. Tasks for the organizer include finding the energies and the financial support to bring together a group of senior scientists and tutors who should take care of young researchers coming from different European countries. I have been asked by some colleagues about the organizational and financial aspects of these Schools. I think that the format must be left open and decided by the organizer, with the suggestion for a reasonable length (7-10 days) and of the involvement of the participants (a space for their presentation of their research activity). From a financial point of view, an increased number of Schools would obviously reduce the contribution that could be given by the Society. This contribution might be limited to a partial support for the accommodation expenses (hopefully based on cheap University structures) for the participants (leaving to them and to their specific Institutions the trip expenses). I hope these words do not discourage potential organisers, and that they appreciate the importance of taking up this responsibility. I also ask to senior scientists who could be contacted by School organisers to share this appreciation and offer their support for the success of the enterprise.

There is of course much more news and material about the Society and you can find it in the other part of the Newsletter, prepared by our Secretary John Towse. Spreading of information concerning our field throughout Europe is one main goal of the Society. The

Newsletter is one source, but I recommend that you also may use of the other sources, i.e. our Journal (which, under the editorship of Claus Bundesen, is increasing its size and –we hope- its audience) and the web.

With my best wishes

Cesare Cornoldi
President

Local officers: A developing list

As referred to in the President's letter, the Society has a new initiative. Local officers are being appointed to support the activities of the Society and to increase the visibility of the Society across Europe. They provide a mechanism for communication between the Society and its members, and they are particularly well placed to help recruit researchers into the Society by making them aware of the benefits of membership. The list of local officers is not complete but at the time of preparing this piece, they include:

Dr. Søren Kyllingsbæk, Denmark
Dr. Talis Bachmann, Estonia
Dr Pertti Saariluoma, Finland
Dr. Iring Koch, Germany
Dr. Ana B. Vivas, Greece
Prof. Csaba Pleh, Hungary
Dr Ruth Byrne, Ireland
Dr. Tomaso Vecchi, Italy
Dr Tim Brennen, Norway
Dr. Edward Necka, Poland
Dr. Amancio da Costa Pinto, Portugal
Dr Mircea Miclea, Romania
Dr. Klas Brenk, Slovenia
Dr Juan Lupiañez, Spain
Dr Timo Mantyla, Sweden
Dr. Walter Perrig, Switzerland
Dr. Gezinus Wolters, The Netherlands
Dr Sami Gulgoz, Turkey

The European Journal of Cognitive Psychology: Editor's Report

The present editorial board has handled all new submissions to the journal since the beginning of 2001. The reviewing administration has been done by staff at the Psychology Press office in the UK. All of my associate editors have worked very well and, with one exception, the staff at the Psychology press office has been highly

supportive. The one exception is a person who was involved in the journal reviewing administration during the second half of 2002 and left a large backlog of work for his successor. Psychology Press are currently rectifying this problem.

The number of submissions to the journal has increased over the past several years. Discounting special issues, the number of submissions in 1999, 2000, 2001, and 2002 was 53, 58, 61, and 69, respectively. Among the 130 submissions made in 2001 and 2002, 26 submissions came from the UK, 18 from Germany, 13 from Spain, 10 from France, and 10 from Belgium. Out of the remaining 53 submissions, 20 came from countries outside Europe.

The rejection rate has been fairly constant. For the papers submitted in the past two years on which final decisions (accept/reject) have been made, the rejection rate has been 68%. This rate seems reasonable, particularly as we see no shortfall of papers in production, and the submission rate continues high.

In 2002 we published 576 pages, containing 25 articles. This year the page budget for the volume is 640 pages (four issues of 160 pages), which probably will contain about 27-28 articles. Issue 1 of volume 15 contained 6 articles, and apart from special issue papers, 26 articles are currently in production. This means that even without special issues, more papers are currently in production than we can expect to publish in 2003. With two special issues coming up as well, we have a substantial backlog for 2004. It may be time to think about a frequency increase to 5 or 6 issues in 2004.

24 February 2003

Claus Bundesen,
Editor, European Journal of Cognitive Psychology

News: Awards and Prizes in Europe

The European Latsis Prize 2002 has been awarded to Professor Annette Karmiloff-Smith, Head of the Neurocognitive Development Unit at the Institute of Child Health, University College London, for her outstanding contribution to the understanding of cognitive and language development in children with genetic disorders. The Prize ceremony took place at the Assembly of the European Science Foundation on 28th November 2002 in Strasbourg.

The European Latsis Prize, of a value of 100,000 Swiss Francs, is financed by the Latsis Foundation and awarded by the European Science Foundation to an individual or group who, in the opinion of their peers, has made the greatest contribution to a particular field of European research. The chosen field of the 2002 prize was "Cognitive Sciences".

Already recognised in her early career for her outstanding contribution to the understanding of the human mind through her studies of normal child

development in several areas of cognition and psycholinguistics, Professor Karmiloff-Smith switched her main research focus some fifteen years ago to understanding the nature of language and intelligence in children with genetic disorders. A particularly original facet of her work is that in her studies of both normal and atypical development, she has always embraced several different areas of cognition, using multiple cross-disciplinary theoretical questions and techniques.

Professor Paolo Legrenzi from the European Latsis prize committee stated: "The theoretical and empirical contributions of Annette Karmiloff-Smith are amongst the most important results of the cognitive sciences over the last thirty years. Her research on multiple areas of cognition and language, which builds on a wide range of trans-disciplinary techniques, has made an enormous impact on other researchers within Europe, North America and the rest of the world."

On receiving the prize, Professor Karmiloff-Smith said, "Although I am of course delighted personally, this is really a prize for all developmentalists. The fact that our field was chosen over adult cognitive science, adult psycholinguistics, and adult neuroscience is a real tribute to the developmental approach."

Prof. dr. Willem Levelt (Max Planck Institut für Psycholinguistik, Nijmegen, the Netherlands) will receive the distinction of Doctor Honoris Causa from The University of Antwerp (Belgium) on 16 May 2003. Professor Levelt receives this distinction for his important contribution to the field of psycholinguistics. His intellectual and managerial talents made it possible to create the flourishing Max Planck Institut für Psycholinguistik in Nijmegen (the Netherlands). He was the founding director of the institute and is still one of the four present directors. He has numerous publications in internationally well-known journals and made an important contribution to the study of speech production. His book "Speaking: From intention to articulation" (1989, MIT Press) represents a hallmark in the latter research area. Together with his co-investigators Levelt developed on-line measurement techniques for the study of the speech process. He was nominated for the honorary doctorate by professor Dominiek Sandra, head of the Centre for Psycholinguistics at the University of Antwerp.

Language and Cognitive Processes

Call for contributions to a new special issue on
Language production across the life-span

Guest Editors:

Antje Meyer
Linda Wheeldon

Topics to include:

1. Early speech production
2. Development of productive vocabulary
3. Normal adult word and sentence production
4. Language production in aging
5. Methods

Articles should be submitted for external review by 1 July 2003 to

Dr. A. S. Meyer
School of Psychology
University of Birmingham
Edgbaston
Birmingham B15 2TT

e-mail: a.s.meyer@bham.ac.uk

News of forthcoming meetings:

Your attention is drawn to details of a workshop, in Sofia. Asher Koriat suggested that some members and graduate students may be interested in participating.

<http://www.nbu.bg/cogs/events/workshop.html>

Also, the next meeting of SARMAC (Society for Applied Research in Memory and Cognition) is going to take place in Aberdeen this year, and it too may be of interest to members.

<http://www.atkinson.yorku.ca/~sarmac/index.htm>